

Venetian Castle of Assos

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Constructed in the late 16th century, the castle was an ambitious project by the Venetians, who aimed to establish a fortress–state from scratch. However, the project ultimately failed to achieve its intended purpose. The castle did not attract the local population, and it quickly lost its strategic importance. Despite this, it remains one of the largest castles in Greece.

In 1584, the nobles of Kefalonia submitted a petition to the Venetian Senate requesting the construction of a new fortress, as the Castle of Saint George, the other major fortification on the island, was inadequate for defending against Turkish threats and pirate raids.

Construction of the Assos Castle began in 1593, and the fortifications were completed by 1596. The Venetians had grand plans to establish a powerful fortress–state, but this vision never materialized. Assos did not attract a significant population, as locals were hesitant to relocate there. Although the castle was strategically built on a naturally impregnable peninsula, this location also had drawbacks. In the event of a siege, vital supplies could be easily cut off. The lack of natural water sources on the hill was a major issue, and while large cisterns were constructed to collect rainwater, this was far from an ideal solution.

Overview

Purpose: Excursion	Type: Castle	Country: Greece
City: Fiskardo	Zip code: 280 84	

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Greek Map